

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DLOS-04 IO-10 OFA-01 OES-03

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O 291831Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6336

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 8682

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CI, BOL, PE

SUBJ: BOLIVIA'S OUTLET TO THE SEA

REFS: STATE 301358, LA PAZ 9018, LIMA 10607

1. WE CERTAINLY AGREE WITH EMBASSY LA PAZ THAT A SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM OF A BOLIVIAN OUTLET TO THE SEA, BASED ON THE CHILEAN PROPOSAL FOR A TERRITORIAL EXCHANGE, WOULD BE A FACTOR PROMOTING STABILITY IN THE REGION AND THEREFORE A MATTER OF INTEREST TO THE US.

2. WHILE THE IMMEDIATE REACTIONS REPORTED FROM LA PAZ AND LIMA PROVIDE FAVORABLE AUGURIES, THERE IS EVERY SIGN THAT THERE WILL HAVE TO BE PROTRACTED BARGAINING BEFORE A DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED. DURING THIS PROCESS, NOT ONLY THE BOLIVIANS BUT ALSO THE CHILEANS AND PERHAPS EVEN THE PERUVIANS ARE LIKELY TO APPEAL AT ONE STAGE OR ANOTHER FOR US SUPPORT IN WHAT MAY ULTIMATELY BECOME AN ADVERSARY PROCEDURE.

3. WHILE CIRCUMSTANCES COULD DEVELOP WHOCH WOULD MAKE US INTERCESSION OF SOME KIND DESIRABLE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT
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AT THIS STAGE A POSTURE OF GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC

ALOOFNESS IS CALLED FOR. AN APPROACH TO CHIEFS OF STATE BY US AMBASSADORS WOULD BE BOUND TO ENTAIL AN IMPLICATION OF COMMITMENT: IT WOULD BE AN EXTRAORDINARY STEP WHICH IN CHILE AT LEAST HAS RARELY BEEN TAKEN IN RECENT YEARS. EVEN THE EXERCISE OF GENERAL GOOD OFFICES COULD RESULT IN EMBROILMENT.

4. RATHER THAN FOLLOW THE COURSE SUGGESTED BY EMBASSY LA PAZ, IT SEEMS TO US PREFERABLE TO CANALIZE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, WHETHER POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC, THROUGH OAS AND IFI MACHINERY. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK WE CAN DO OUR PART TO ENCOURAGE THE PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEING THE PROBLEM AND AT THE SAME TIME INVIGORATE HEMISPHERE SOLIDARITY IN A WAY WE WOULD ALL DESIRE.

5. ACCORDINGLY, WE CONCLUDE THAT ANY USG REACTION SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF APPROVING WORDS UTTERED IN WASHINGTON, PERHAPS THROUGH A PRESS STATEMENT, AFTER REPEAT AFTER IT BECOME CLEAR THE PERU'S ATTITUDE WILL PERMIT REAL PROGRESS PURSUANT TO THE CHILEAN PROPOSAL. HERE IN SANTIAGO, AMBASSADOR POPPER HAS PERSONALLY CONGRATULATED SENIOR GOC FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS FOR CHILE'S CONSTRUCTIVE MOVE. WE SEE NO NEED FOR FURTHER ACTION HERE AT THE MOMENT.
POPPER

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